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cont.

down to nanometres. In contrast, the size can also be selected to have an upper limit up to the millimetre range. Specifically, a range can be provided, for example, (situated in the lower part of the abovementioned spectrum) from  $7 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $7 \times 10^{-2}$   $\mu\text{m}$ . In order, in this regard, to obtain the sought-after mass (paraffin character, coherent mass, no powder characteristics), the weight ratio of paraffin to silicic acid should be greater than or equal to 80 (paraffin) to 20 (silicic acid). "Paraffin" is here chosen to be representative of all other variants mentioned below.

IN THE CLAIMS

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before claim 1, change "CLAIMS" to --WE CLAIM:--

Please cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute the following claims 13-21 respectively, therefor:

a<sup>3</sup>

--13. (new) Flammable mass, in particular in a form of a firelighting aid, such as barbecue firelighters, fireplace firelighters and oven firelighters respectively made of paraffin containing inorganic particles disposed in a homogeneous distribution in the paraffin, and, optionally, a combustion-promoting additive, said particles being silicic acid.

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14. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the silicic acid is precipitated silicic acid.

15. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the silicic acid is pyrogenic silicic acid.

16. (new) Flammable mass according to claims 13, wherein the silicic acid is hydrophilic.

17. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the silicic acid is hydrophobic.

18. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the paraffin is paraffin produced from slack wax.

19. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the paraffin is paraffin produced by Fischer-Tropsch synthesis.

20. (new) Flammable mass according to claim 13, wherein the combustion-promoting additive is a metallocene.

21. (new) Flammable mass according to  
claim 20, wherein the metallocene is a ferrocene.--